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United States Depository

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United States bonds 600,000.00
Cash in vaults and exchange 1,422,658.91

\$4,479,613.28

LIABILITIES

Capital paid in \$ 500,000.00
Surplus and profits 146,687.33
Circulating notes 500,000.00
Deposits 3,332,925.95

\$4,479,613.28

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National Bank Of Commerce

EL PASO, TEXAS.

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MAKERS

How the Nation Is Reorganizing Its Educational System.

School Books for Four Hundred Millions—Big Money for Foreign Publishers—China's Earliest Printing Establishment and Its Composing Rooms—Maps, Globes and Dumb Bells—With the Bindery Girls—Celestial Book Pirates—What the Missions Are Doing—Western Novels Among The Celestials—The New Alphabet—Chances for American Teachers.

(Copyright, 1910, by Frank G. Carpenter)

SHANGHAI, China, Jan. 5.—One of the problems which China is facing is the making of text books. A public school system is being established all over the empire. Academies, colleges and universities are being organized, and books are needed for teaching the new learning. When the system is in full swing, millions of volumes will be required, and at present there is practically nothing on hand. The old text books describe the earth as flat, with China covering the most of its surface, and the other continents for the little edges. The chief studies of the past were the reading and writing Chinese, and the committing to memory the sayings of Confucius and Mencius. Today the nation wants one scheme of modern education. The government has resolved that it shall have it, and a compulsory system of schooling is to be generally established. Suppose that tomorrow our president and congress should enact laws wiping out our public schools, replacing them with others vitally different, with an entire new list of books. That is the situation in China today.

China, moreover, has four times as many people as the United States. Its children of school age are more than 100,000,000, and in the new scheme the grownups as well as the babies are anxious to learn. There are kindergarten and primary departments for the little ones, there are night schools for civil officials, military schools for the army, and law schools for would-be statesmen. All these are under way, and there are no books to feed them. The situation is one of the strangest in history. It has no counterpart in the west, and will probably have none in the future.

In the meantime books are being imported from a half a dozen different countries. The great school book publishing houses of Great Britain, the United States and Japan are sending out the field and shipping in translations of text books of one kind and another. The Macmillans of London and New York have published some, the American Book company and Ginn of the United States others; and as for the Japanese, they are pirating the school books of other nations and sending them here by the ton.

China's Biggest Publishing House. Up to the present time most of the modern text books in use have been made by the missionaries. One of the largest presses of the far east is that of the Presbyterian mission at Shanghai, another of considerable size belongs to the Methodists, and there are a few of other denominations.

The only large secular publishing house which has been organized to take advantage of the new conditions is the Commercial Press of this city. It was established a little more than 10 years ago, with a paidup capital of three-quarters of a million dollars in silver. It has since grown until it now has a plant covering acres and humming with modern machinery.

I went out to see this establishment last week. It lies within two miles or so of Shanghai proper, on the other side of Hongkong creek. On my way of it I drove past a mile or so of the fine foreign residences, with wide porches and galleries abutted them by, many stores occupied by Chinese, by schools and colleges run by the missionaries, and on out into the country. I was accompanied by one of the managers, and, with him, went through the various branches of the establishment.

The Commercial Press is making everything, from kindergarten lesson books to English-Chinese dictionaries, geographies and books of mining engineering. It has a large lithographing plant, where a dozen presses are turning out school books in colors. In one room they were printing a calendar for the

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I have in my possession a prescription for nervous debility, weakened manhood, failing memory and lame back, brought on by excesses, unnatural desires, or the follies of youth, that has cured so many worn and nervous men right in their own homes—without any additional help or medicine—that I think every man who wishes to regain his manly power and virility, quickly and quietly, should have a copy. So I have determined to send a copy of the prescription free of charge, in a plain, ordinary sealed envelope to any man who will write me for it.

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FRANK G. CARPENTER'S LETTER.

MAKING TEXT BOOKS FOR THE CHINESE

me if I would write him a new reader or so especially adapted to the Chinese market. I replied that I was very busy, and he thereupon suggested that the book could be written for me in their office, and that I could revise it. But in that case they would expect to pay a much less royalty. I told him such a proposition was out of the question, but notwithstanding this he brought it up again and again, and urged it upon me at a Chinese dinner which he gave me that night.

Among the other books in the warehouse I saw piles of Chinese-English dictionaries. They were in two volumes, each as big as an ordinary table Webster. They are practically a translation of the Standard Dictionary, which is so largely used in the United States. They were edited by Dr. Yan, who has been connected with our legation in Washington. The two volumes are widely distributed; they sell for about \$6 in gold. Pocket dictionaries are also printed, and a native language dictionary is now in press. This will be sent out to the law schools, which are now being established at all the provincial capitals.

School Supplies. After visiting the editors, I was taken to another large building, which contains a curious branch of this publishing house. It is devoted to school supplies, and makes everything from dials to blowpipes for the chemical laboratories. It manufactures pendulums, globes, Indian clubs and dumbbells. The dumbbells are cast from pig iron; they are made in great quantities, and it is intended they shall be used in all public schools.

Every room of this school book factory is lighted by electricity, and all are connected by a telephone system. The machinery is up-to-date, and on the whole it shows one something of what is going on in the new China.

At present a large proportion of the new text books are printed upon the mission presses. The missionaries have been at work in China for a century, and they have established schools in all parts of the country. They were the authors of the first new text books, and as teachers their graduates are now in demand. The American Presbyterian mission press at Shanghai has been printing out volumes for a number of years at the rate of 90,000,000 pages per annum, and the consolidated mission press of the American Methodists has also published numerous educational books. The American Bible society distributes between 500,000 and 1,000,000 volumes of the scriptures in Chinese each year, and there is now a mission educational association, supported by all the Protestant sects, which is preparing new text books for the schools. At some of the missionary stations they are making school museums, including such things as stuffed birds and animals, mounted fishes, electrical machines, globes and model railways. They have printed charts of the Chinese provinces, with the principal industries and resources marked upon them, and have inaugurated new methods of teaching for the new learning. Indeed, the work which the missionaries have done cannot be overestimated, and the situation here just now is such that money spent upon missions will return a thousandfold.

A Carnegie of China. In this connection, a bright woman clerk of the mission book store of Shanghai said to me today: "What China needs more than anything else is a system of circulating libraries, which shall contain the simpler books of our modern literature, including the scriptures, concordances and the western classics. These people are dying for the new learning, but they are uneducated and cannot afford to buy books. The Chinese women want them. In every community club are already established, where the women come together weekly or daily to gossip and talk. If they could have such books they would be read aloud at these meetings and a great educational movement might thus be instituted. As to the Chinese translations, they are cheap. The concordance of the scriptures costs less than 20 cents gold, and there are few books of any kind that sell as high as a dollar."

With the Bindery Girls. I next went into the binding department and spent some time there watching the girls. There were hundreds of them, dressed in long blue coats and wide trousers, with bands of black silk over their oily black hair. They sat at tables, with their little deformed feet touching the floor. They worked so busily that I remain upon it; whereupon the manager, who acted as our guide, said: "We pay them by piecework, and they have no time to waste." I asked as to their wages. The man replied: "Oh, they are making much money for them! Some of the best earn \$7 Mexican per week, or about \$3 in gold. The average workman is paid about \$1.50."

These girls were stitching and sewing, folding and pasting, and also feeding the presses. Their hours were about 12 per day. The department contained much modern machinery, and the work of binding was economically done.

The Celestial Book Pirates. China has no copyright law. I found the Commercial Press stealing everything that its managers think of value for the new Chinese schools. No matter what the copyrights are, foreign authors must be content with the hope that their books may do good, even though they do not get a cent for their financial receipts. As I looked over the volumes printed by this company for the new education I found many well known American text books which have been translated into Chinese. I saw also stacks of my own "Geographical Readers," published on cheap paper, with abominable illustrations. I was told the whole series had been prepared for the press, and that my books on North America and Europe were already in use. The matter has been translated by the English-Chinese scholars, and, as far as possible, verbatim, but how correctly only those who can read the Chinese teacher's characters can know.

As I looked at my books the manager of the company said they sold well and that he expected to get a good revenue from Carpenters' "Asia," which was then in the press. He explained apologetically that they had been forced to change some of the literary matter in the chapters on China, as their people did not like to be told that they had butternose eyes, pigtailed heads and deformed feet. He made no bones about taking my books without pay, and even offered to make a royalty contract with

I cite this conversation as a suggestion for some rich American who would like to be known as the Carnegie of China.

New Chinese Literature.

The inauguration of the new school system and the new civilization is bringing in translations of the most popular books of the western world. Today 221 novels, originally written in English, French or German, are in circulation. They have been translated into Chinese, and the demand for them is increasing. In one year 57 such novels were issued. They included translations of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Jules Verne's "Voyage to the Moon" and "Charles Lamb's 'Tales From Shakespeare.'" One of the most popular of the new issues is Conan Doyle's "Memoirs of Sherlock J. Holmes," and another is "Robinson Crusoe." Among translations from the French are "Les Miserables" and "Manon Lescaut," and the most popular English stories are "Ivanhoe" and other novels of Sir Walter Scott. These works are published on cheap paper; they are sold by booksellers in the various cities, some bringing as little as 10 cents apiece. One of the recent translations of this nation sold to the extent of 40,000 copies, and that within a year; another had a circulation of 158,000 copies within 18 months.

In addition to novels, some heavy works, such as Darwin's "Origin of Species," Spencer's "Evolution," and Mill's "Essay on Liberty," are being published, and the new constitution has created a demand for treatises on politics and parliamentary law.

Dr. C. D. Tenney, formerly head of the Chinese university at Tientsin, and now the Chinese secretary of our legation at Peking, has published a number of school books, which are in general use, including readers, primers and

geographies, and Mr. Wylie, of the London mission, has prepared a complete series of text books and mathematics in the Chinese for the Japanese translators.

A large number of the new translations come from the Japanese. The written languages of Japan and China are somewhat similar, and the Japanese scholar learns quickly to speak, read and write the Chinese. In the Commercial Press editorial room a large number of Japanese men are employed as translators, and I find Japanese teachers in all the Chinese educational centers. Much of the new school furniture has been made in Japan, and a large number of the modern maps and charts. The Japanese teachers will work for lower salaries than other foreigners, and this is one reason for their employment. As a rule, they are not thorough, and the probability is that they will eventually be replaced by Americans, Englishmen or Germans. I look for the steady increase in the number of American teachers. There are hundreds of Chinese now studying in the United States, and there are many American-Chinese graduates in China. All of these have a high regard for our methods of education, and they would favor the selection of our college graduates as leaders for the new schools.

Frank G. Carpenter.

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